

## Verb forms: gerunds and participles

A verb ending in *-ing* is either a present participle or a gerund. These two forms look identical. The difference is in their functions in a sentence.

*He is fishing in the lake.* (present participle)

*Fishing is fun.* (gerund)

Present participles are part of all continuous verb forms:

*He is exercising.* (present continuous)

*They were swimming.* (past continuous)

When the *-ing* form of a verb functions as a noun, it is called a gerund: *Skating is fun. I like swimming.*

### Task 1: Use the prompts to write sentences.

1. go to the party / excellent idea

\_\_\_\_\_ .

2. answer question / easy

\_\_\_\_\_ .

3. travel / exciting experience

\_\_\_\_\_ .

4. drive too fast / dangerous

\_\_\_\_\_ .

5. do puzzles / good exercise for the brain

\_\_\_\_\_ .

We can use present and past participles as adjectives: *Barking dogs seldom bite. He carried a lighted candle in his hand.*

### Task 2: Write pp (for present participle) or g (for gerund) next to each sentence.

1. You are eating too much junk food these days. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Smoking is bad for your health. \_\_\_\_\_

3. She hates spending money. \_\_\_\_\_

4. They were waving their hands until he disappeared in the distance. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Can you teach me painting? \_\_\_\_\_

Task 3: Use the past participles of the verbs in the box to qualify the nouns in the sentences.

paint   annoy   develop   write   close

1. When they arrived the door was \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ test was very difficult.
3. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ sign on the wall.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ neighbors complained to the authorities.
5. Most food is consumed by \_\_\_\_\_ countries.